

Direct Student Service Opportunities

As a participant in the 2011 GEAR UP grant, your school will have the unique opportunity to participate in our Direct Student Services program. One of our goals in this grant is to increase students' and their families' knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation and financing. Your school will receive funding to implement activities and programs to help create a "college going culture". Below is a description of those programs.

College Connection Workshop Series (7th-12th Grade)

In conjunction with the Oklahoma College Access Program (OCAP), a series of 45-minute workshops will be provided to 7th-12th grade students throughout the year. (*Example*)

7 th Grade	8 th Grade	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Why College?	-Getting Ready for college. -EXPLORE Results	High School 101	Financial Aid Planning -PLAN Results	What's My Higher Education Plan?	College Transition and Financial Fitness

Elective Courses

- **CollegeEd (8th Grade)** - A 32-week curriculum created by College Board to provide college/career information and exploration.
- **Building Resources for College (BRIC) (9th/10th Grade)** - A 32-week course designed to explore college options and build leadership skills.

College Visits (7th-12th)

Participating GEAR UP schools will have the opportunity to provide college visits and tours at every grade level which can be a transformational personal experience for students and particularly helpful in encouraging students to set high expectations early in their academic careers. As they mature, college visits will focus on developing specific knowledge and skills needed for college.

EXPLORE & PLAN Test Student/Parent Analysis (8th and 10th)

GEAR UP students will meet with their GEAR UP Education Specialist to review the results of their PLAN and EXPLORE tests in an effort to understand the results and make academic plans for the coming year.

Student Inventory

- Beginning in the seventh grade, students will complete a yearly career interest inventory through collaboration with the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology (OKCIS). This will provide students career exploration opportunities linked to the outcomes of the inventory.
- Ninth grade students will complete the *Gallup Student Poll*, an assessment to assist schools in evaluating individual psychological attributes, determine their level of academic risk, and identify interventions to help them stay on track to graduate.

Eighth Grade Rookie Camp

Transitioning to high school is no easy feat for some students. “Rookie Camp” is designed to ease the transition of middle school students to high school. This is an opportunity for students and parents to meet the administration and teachers, to learn academic expectations, and be introduced to extracurricular activities and clubs.

Summer Math and Science Institutes (8-10th Grade)

GEAR UP students in the 8th-10th grades will have the opportunity to participate in Summer Institutes designed to interest them in pursuing math and science related fields as a course of study in college. The week-long residential program will allow students to experience campus life and learn in a fun, safe environment.

Service Learning Project – (11th grade)

Service Learning projects are an opportunity for leadership growth for students. Each eleventh grade class will develop a service learning project for their community.

ACT Preparation (11th and 12th grades)

All 11th grade students will take the ACT assessment. ACT will provide the schools with aggregated GEAR UP profile summary reports each year to provide staff with valuable information on student college readiness based on ACT benchmarks. *Students will have the opportunity to participate in ACT Prep workshops.*

AP – “First Look” Workshop

Schools will offer a one day workshop for students and their parents who enroll in Advanced Placement courses for the following year. The workshop is designed to give students information on what to expect in an AP course.

College Partner

Each participating GEAR UP school will be assigned a College Partner. These community colleges were selected based on the number of high school students from your district enrolled at the particular college. Students will have the opportunity to visit, meet faculty and become familiar a college atmosphere.

★ College Connection Liaisons

Individuals at partnering community colleges will be selected to serve as College Liaisons. These College Liaisons will assist students in meeting their social services needs. They will connect students (and parents) with existing college services to ease college transition. They will be on hand to assist in planning college visits and financial aid needs. They will also be available to speak with individual GEAR UP students as needed.

Senior Transition Services

GEAR UP Education Specialists and College Liaisons will be available to provide assistance to seniors by guiding them through the college application and financial aid processes and scholarship searches. Seniors will also receive financial assistance from GEAR UP for participation in “College Bridge” or “Freshman Orientation” transition programs if a fee waiver is not available.